



## COVID-19 and remote teaching and learning: Supporting educators, students, and families

With most schools shuttered, educators face multiple challenges as they work to support students and families. The **Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Program**, which includes REL Midwest and nine other RELs across the nation, is drawing on research and evidence to provide guidance, resources, and strategies to help. We [encourage you to reach out](#) if you have suggestions or requests for additional support—and we wish you good health!

- **Message from the REL Midwest director**  
Our director shares some of the ways that REL Midwest is working to support educators, students, and families in our region in response to the COVID-19 health crisis. [Read more](#)
- **Evidence-based resources on remote learning from the RELs**  
This webpage compiles REL resources on teaching and learning in a remote setting. Topics include English learner students, equitable learning opportunities, postsecondary transitions, and social and emotional learning and mental health. [Browse the resources](#)
- **Quick chat webinar: Shifting classroom practices to a virtual environment**  
This free 30-minute webinar, cohosted by REL Midwest and the Region 9 Comprehensive Center, highlights strategies for teaching K–12 students in remote settings. [View the webinar recording and materials](#)
- **Webinar: Research-based resources, considerations, and strategies for remote learning**  
This free REL Midwest webinar explores evidence-based resources and strategies for remote learning. Topics include transitioning to remote learning, social and emotional needs, adult learning needs, and online learning platforms. [View the webinar recording and materials](#)
- **Blog series: Providing equitable learning opportunities in remote settings**  
Explore guidance and strategies for supporting specific student groups in remote settings in these first two installments in our new blog series.
  - Guidance for navigating remote learning for [English learner students](#)
  - Plan and deliver: Educating [students with disabilities](#) in remote settings

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## Ready to learn: REL Midwest public television documentary examines effective models of school-based health care

Now more than ever, it is important to help students stay healthy—both at home and after schools reopen. Learn how REL Midwest is supporting school-based health care in Ohio through screenings of our latest public television documentary, *Healthy Students = Strong Learners*, produced in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and WVIZ/PBS ideastream.

[Read more](#) ➡

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## Resource roundup: Equitable school discipline

Many districts and schools are working to develop more equitable discipline policies. To support these efforts, we rounded up resources on school discipline from across the REL network.

[Read more](#) ➡

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## Introducing the Region 9 Comprehensive Center

Our new partner, the Region 9 Comprehensive Center, is providing capacity-building services in Illinois and Iowa through a U.S. Department of Education grant. The center helps state, district, and school leaders in its region identify, implement, and sustain evidence-based programs and practices, with the goal of improving outcomes for educators and students alike.

[Learn more](#) ➡   [Follow on Twitter](#) ➡   [Sign up for the newsletter](#) ➡

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## Ask A REL

This month, we are featuring Ask A REL reference desk responses focused on remote learning. For more on this topic, [browse all Ask A REL responses](#) and then [submit a question](#) of your own.

- What research is available on [virtual/online program effectiveness in special education?](#)
- What research is available on [practices to build a sense of community in online courses?](#)
- What research is available on [technology integration?](#)
- What research is available on [practices to authorize, monitor, and oversee virtual schools?](#)
- What research is available on [state funding models for e-schools?](#)

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## Upcoming events

- **May 6, 2020: Implementing Competency-Based Education Strategies: From Research to Practice, Webinar** (3:00–4:30 p.m. CT). This free webinar will examine the impact of competency-based education (CBE) strategies on student learning outcomes, how to create structures within a school or classroom to effectively implement CBE strategies, and how the Minnesota Department of Education is supporting CBE structures within districts. [Register](#)

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### Contact Us

Please contact us for more information about any of the items in this newsletter or to speak to a member of our staff. We look forward to hearing from you.

**REL Midwest at American Institutes for Research**  
10 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 600  
Chicago, IL 60606



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This material was prepared under Contract ED-IES-17-C-0007 by Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest, administered by the American Institutes for Research. The content of the publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) or the U.S. Department of Education, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. government.